

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00704 160344Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0139
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0704

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR CH JA
SUBJ: SINO-JAPANESE PFT -- SONODA VISIT NEXT STEP

REF: TOKYO 3737

1. JAPANESE EMBASSY HAS TOLD US THAT RESULT OF CONSULTATIONS HERE BY CHINA DIVISION HEAD TAKASHI IS RECOMMENDATION THAT FONMIN SONODA COME TO PEKING IN EFFORT TO BREAK DEADLOCK OVER ANTI-HEGEMONY CLAUSE.

2. A KEY ELEMENT IN THIS DECISION IS A REMARK MADE TO KOMEITO PARTY LEADER YANO YESTERDAY BY TENG HSIAO-PING. TENG REPORTEDLY STATED UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT SONODA WOULD BE WELCOME TO VISIT PEKING AT ANY TIME.

3. TAJIMA CAME TO PEKING ON A THREE-DAY VISIT TO IRON OUT DIFFERENCES IN APPROACH BETWEEN THE JAPANESE EMBASSY HERE AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN TOKYO. ALTHOUGH HE HAD A LUNCHEON MEETING WITH
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HIS PRC COUNTERPART TING MING, WE UNDERSTAND THEY ENGAGED IN NO REAL NEGOTIATIONS.

4. JAPANESE EMBOFF ADMITTED THERE WERE STILL SOME WORDING PROBLEMS CONCERNING THE ANTI-HEGEMONY CLAUSE, AND THAT THERE WOULD THUS BE SOME "RISK" ATTENDANT ON A SONODA VISIT AT THIS TIME. NEVERTHELESS, EMBASSY FEELS THE RISK IS MANAGEABLE,

AND THAT A SONODA VISIT OFFERS THE BEST CHANCE OF
ENDING THE LONG DEADLOCK OVER THE TREATY.

5. EMBOFF REMARKED THAT SOME PRESS REPORTS OF YANO VISIT
HAVE GIVEN AN INACCURATE ACCOUNT OF LIAO CHENG-CHIH'S STATE-
MENT TO YANO ON CHINA'S POSITION ON THE PFT. ACCORDING TO
THE JAPANESE EMBASSY TRANSCRIPT OF YANO'S PRESS CONFERENCE,
YANO REPORTED THAT LIAO HAD STATED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF SINO-
JAPANESE RELATIONS WAS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST ANY THIRD COUNTRY--AN
OLD CHINESE POSITION--AND NOT THAT THE TREATY WAS NO DIRECTED
AGAINST ANY THIRD COUNTRY, AS FOR INSTANCE AFP HAS REPORTED. THUS
LIAO'S REMARKS (AND TENG'S), WHILE THEY PROVIDE A FULLER
PUBLIC STATEMENT OF THE CHINESE POSITION, DO NOT
REPRESENT ANY REAL SOFTENING OF THAT POSITION. INDEED, THE
JAPANESE EMBASSY FEELS THAT ONE LIAO STATEMENT--THAT TO
OPPOSE HEGEMONY WITHOUT OPPOSING THOSE COUNTRIES WHO SEEK
IT IS ILLOGICAL--COULD BE VIEWED AS A HARDENING OF THE
CHINESE STAND.

6. EMBOFF WAS UNABLE TO SPECULATE ON THE DATES OF SONODA'S VISIT.
HE NEVERTHELESS CLEARLY EXPECTED IT TO OCCUR IN A MATTER OF
WEEKS.
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